

# FORT BENTON RECORD

Vol. 1.

FORT BENTON, M. T., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1875.

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## THE BENTON RECORD,

Fort Benton, M. T.,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

W. H. PUCK, - - - Editor & Proprietor.

### RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

(IN ADVANCE.)

One copy, one year, - - - \$3.00  
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SPACE	1 W.	2 W.	3 W.	4 W.	1 M.	2 M.	3 M.	6 M.	1 Y.
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5 "	10.00	12.50	16.00	20.00	32.00	44.00	56.00	80.00	150.00
6 "	12.00	15.00	19.00	24.00	38.00	52.00	66.00	92.00	180.00
7 "	14.00	17.50	22.00	28.00	44.00	60.00	76.00	104.00	200.00
8 "	16.00	20.00	25.00	32.00	50.00	68.00	86.00	116.00	220.00
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## BENTON AND THE HELENA JOURNALS.

In a former article we referred to the fact that a change had dawned upon this locality, that is, a change in our commercial relations with the people of Helena, upon whom we were in a measure formerly dependent. The merchants and business men of Helena always, we believe, regarded our purchases of flour, grain, lumber, horses, cattle, and general merchandise as a valuable addition to their market, and with commendable enterprise endeavored to obtain exclusive control of the trade of this section. But the Helena journals, with short-sighted wisdom, concluded that we were wholly and irrevocably dependent upon their market for the necessities of life and could not withdraw our patronage if we desired to do so. By their efforts to expose what they imagined to be our helpless condition, they have overreached themselves and injured those whose interests they are supposed to advocate and protect; for they have stimulated our business men to an activity that strews the seeds of prosperity from one end of our county to the other, and taught our people to seek from their own resources, the means of severing the commercial bond that linked the interests of Benton with those of Helena.

Four years ago we purchased all of our lumber and vegetables from Helena. Now we are supplied entirely from our own county, and this year even, only a partial supply of oats and barley will be required from outside markets. Through the enterprise of Messrs. Healy Bros. we have one of the finest flouring mills in Montana, and in a

year or so we will have in our home market all the flour that will be required. Our Helena friends can then build an impassable wall, if they wish, for we can do without them if they can do without us. And this is a triumph over adverse journalism of which the people of Choteau County have reason to be proud. When starting into life, the journals of Helena, those liberal and fair advocates of the best interests of Montana, sought to commercially enslave us, or at least represented that the business men of Helena were making every effort in that direction. When passing beyond the confines of thickly inhabited localities in the interest of commerce, in behalf of advanced civilization, they misrepresented our motives and maligned our actions. Every imaginable restraint and check have strewn our onward course. Yet, in spite of all this, we remained friendly to the interests of Helena. In spite of the unfriendly attitude of its newspapers we stood by it at the needed moment, our merchants even favored these journals as advertising mediums, and the votes of Choteau County caused the removal of the Capital. Formerly this ungrateful treatment stung us to the quick, but now we can laugh at the misfortunes anticipated for us. We can read, with a calmness amounting to indifference, in almost every issue of the "Independent" and the "Herald" the most glaring absurdities concerning the advantages of the Carrol route, and with the same feeling observe that the prompt shipments and deliveries of our commission merchants are scarcely noticed—we can do this now, because experience has proved that the efforts of these journals to injure us has accelerated our progress on the road to prosperous independence. The enterprise that induced the publication of the Record, that built a steamboat, that developed our agricultural and other resources—all of which have added materially to the progress and welfare of the Territory—must, if possible, be rendered more active by the envious attacks of jealous neighbors.

We are happy to learn that there is a fair prospect of telegraphic communication being once more restored between Benton and Corinne via Helena. Soldiers have been sent from Shaw to cut poles and put up the wire, and another party will soon commence work at this end of the line.

## THE FORT GARRY PRISONERS HEARD FROM.

Mr. J. H. Evans is in receipt of letters from the Fort Garry prisoners. They unite in beseeching the assistance of their friends in Montana, in their hour of misery. They are in a very precarious condition, just now, and we judge from their words that they are fully cognizant of that fact. The notorious Farwell, the model witness, whose perjured lips move glibly in the self-imposed, paid task of convicting innocent men, by his false tales, and the long haired half-breed La Bompard, who a few months ago was unable to identify any of the accused parties with the charge preferred by the Canadian authorities, are the main witnesses for the prosecution. Through their representations another witness comes on the stand. With these two scoundrels as guides, Major Irvine visited the spot made memorable through the attack of a large camp of Indians on a few white men, which resulted in the rout of the savages, and mapped the situation. This is considered important evidence for the crown, for in one particular it will be made corroborative of Farwell's evidence. The evidence of Major Irvine is of course admissible, but in any event where the accused could practically produce their evidence, the testimony of Major Irvine would have no weight, because it is mainly dependent on the statement of Farwell, who has been proved to be a perjurer of the deepest dye, and of La Bompard, who it was proven could not by any possibility be informed through his own knowledge of the details of the Cypress Hills fight. The question of the distance between the several important points on the battle field was considered, at the examination of Evans and party at Helena, as having a very strong bearing in the evidence for the prosecution, and it was a strong feature in the defence when it was shown that the prosecution had increased and decreased the distances as it would suit the case.

If the Canadian authorities are really anxious to promote the ends of justice, they should turn the tables. Examine Vogle, Bell and Hughes as witnesses, and put Farwell where in the course of events he will undoubtedly be placed, in the dock. Those men can prove that Farwell is a notorious liar that he had been a whisky trader in the Northwest British possessions for

many years, and that he was the cause, the originator, the prime mover in the difficulty which ensued between the Indians and the white men at the time in question. And let the Canadian authorities ask the officer who accompanied the Fort Garry party some distance beyond the police fort at Cypress Hills, what replies he received from the many camps of Indians and half-breeds along the route, to his question relative to the character of Farwell, and the testimony of that officer will be corroborative of the evidence which Major Irvine, the Canadian Commissioner, heard concerning the same, at Helena, M. T.

Mr. Hughes, in his letter says: "Bell had an examination here and was committed to prison on a charge of murder. Mr. Taylor, the United States Consul, has been attending to us since we have been here, but though he is sincere in his friendship, he cannot perform impossibilities. So far, we have found him to be a thorough gentleman and a credit to the nation he represents."

We have reason to know that our Consul at Fort Garry is all that Mr. Hughes represents him, and that he will not hesitate to perform his duty in guarding the lives, and liberties of the American citizens now prisoners at that place.

## THE NEVADA TIMES AND THAT STRANGE STORY.

It is very remarkable how stupid usually well informed journals become when such course best serves their interests. A Nevada journalist cloaks an attack on Prof. Marsh by holding him responsible for the exposition of the Blackfoot Agency swindle. Now, Mr. "Times" you know that Prof. Marsh is not conversant with affairs at the Blackfoot Agency, and you know also that the writer of the Blackfoot letter said that "except as war parties" the tribes of Blood or Blackfoot Indians do not cross the line. You say that Nat. Crabtree was killed by Blackfoot Indians in 1869, near this place. If that were true and at all connected with the statements you refer to, it would strengthen rather than weaken "that strange story." The Blood and Blackfoot Indians have committed many serious depredations in this vicinity, to our own knowledge, and they are likely to commit many more if we are left in our present

unprotected condition; yet for that reason only we cannot deny the charge that an appropriation is made for them by Congress of which they receive no portion. Nor can we deny the truth of the official reports that these tribes do not visit the Agency to receive annuities as stated by our correspondent in last issue. We desire to correct the "Times" in regard to the murder of Crabtree. In the spring of 1868 Crabtree, with a half dozen other white men, were at Camp Cook getting out wood. In his turn, Crabtree one morning went out to drive in the work cattle, and while he was gone a soldier brought in word that the herd had been run off by Indians. Some of the citizens went out and found Crabtree lying wounded, and in reply to the question put to him he said that the Indians who shot him and ran off the herd were "Bloods and Pie-gans." The herd which belonged to the fort, Camp Cook, was afterwards found in the Sioux camp which clearly proved what Indians had committed the depredation.

We take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of a complimentary ticket to the Territorial Fair, kindly sent us by Mr. D. H. Cuthbert, Secretary of the Montana A. M. & M. Association. Unavoidable circumstances prevented us from attending the Fair, much to our regret, as we can imagine nothing more interesting than this annual exhibition of Montana's resources.

## CHAS. K. WELLS

(SUCCESSOR TO J. H. MING & CO.)

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## Bookseller, Stationer

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